


ASPULL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1957.





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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

R. R. T. MORTIMER,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B.

Meat Inspectors Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Aspull.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District
Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the
health of the district for the year 1957.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance
with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour
has been made to embrace the most important details, and par-
ticularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in
the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and
I would also like to extend my thanks to the Public Health Inspect-
or and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance
during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area: 1906 acres.

Population (Census 1952): 6,522.

Estimated mid-1957 (Registrar General): 6,640.

Total Number of Houses: 2,098.

Rateable Value: £33,100.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £129.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries: One Cotton Mill and One Engineering Works.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1957.

					Males	Females	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	66	55	121
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...			2	—	2
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...			1	—	1
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :							
total (all forms)—							
Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.3
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.3
Malignant neoplasm, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.51
Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population—							
Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.4
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1957.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths
Respiratory tuberculosis	2
Whooping cough	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13
Coronary disease, angina	8
Other heart diseases	8
Other circulatory disease	5
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	4
Bronchitis	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1
All other accidents	1

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. Chemical analyses of water samples are carried out at the City Analyst's Department at the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department and during 1957, reports were made to the Authority on 23 examinations of milk and 13 of water.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 8 bacteriological examinations and 5 chemical analyses of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

During the year the water supply continued to be insufficient in one part of the district, but the work of renewing some 2,870 yards of water main was commenced towards the end of the year.

No. of houses with supply direct from the public water main	2,098
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc	... .. Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	... .. Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 14 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

During the year 48 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	19
Number of houses affected	... .. 47

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was:—

Number of Fresh Water Closete	... .. 2,037
Number of Pail Closets	... .. 13
Number of Privy Middens	... .. 1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

One driver and 5 labourers are engaged whole time on refuse collection and disposal work. An adequate service has been maintained during the year. All refuse is tipped at the March House tip.

A dustbin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of 150 dustbins per year is in operation in the district.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,215 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	86,600
Approximate number of pail closets emptied	650
Approximate weight of refuse removed (tons)	3,692

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects:—

No. of Informal Notices served	106
No. of Statutory Notices served	10
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	10
No. of Defects and nuisances found	259
No. abated	180

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravans or sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 2 factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 3 houses infested with bed bugs were disinfected with Coopers Multispray (containing D.D.T.) 4 other houses were disinfected of other insect pests either by spraying with liquid insecticide or by dusting with insecticidal powder. This type of treatment proved highly efficient.

RODENT CONTROL

50 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for tretment of business premises.

1,164 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1957.

One Rodent Operative is employed for 3 days per week on this work.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	6	4	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.	3	1	1	—	—
TOTAL ...		7	5	—	—

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

13 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and 3 inspections were made under the Acts.

4. HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly married couples having to live with parents. 52 new housing applications were received during the year, of which 11 were applications for old peoples' bungalows.

During the year 20 new three-bedroom type houses were tenanted, also 9 two-bedroom type, and 8 aged persons' bungalows.

At the end of the year 16 three-bedroom houses were under construction by the Council's Direct Labour Department.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i) By the Local Authority	36
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	20

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	118
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	142
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—	
(a) No. found during the year	2
(b) No. (or estimated n.) at end of year	51
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	89

2. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ...	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act, 1936	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas.

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	2	7	3
--	---	---	---

3. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953	3	18	5
(2) Under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2), Housing Act, 1949	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	—	—	—

4. UNFIT HOUSE MADE FIT and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	70	.....
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	10	—
(b) Housing Act, 1936	—	—
(3) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 ... ..	—	.....

5. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year:—		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 2	NIL	NIL
(b) Under Section 3	NIL	NIL
(c) Under Section 4	NIL	NIL
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6	NIL	NIL

6. PURCHASE OF HOUSE by Agreement

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year.	NIL	NIL

7. HOUSING ACTS—Improvement grants, etc.

1 scheme was submitted by a private individual to the Local Authority, but was not approved. No schemes were submitted by the Local Authority to the Ministry.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

During the year licences under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, were issued to the following:—

Dealers in Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of registered distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

There is one dairy in the district.

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	No Result
(a) Raw Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis — biological tests	6	4 (Neg.)	—	2
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	6	4	2	—
(iii) B. Typhosus examinations	3	3	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests	—	—	—	—
(b) “Heat treated” Milk—				
(1) Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
“Pasteurised”				
(ii) Phosphatase tests	3	3	—	—
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	3	3	—	—
“Sterilised”				
(iv) Turbidity tests	2	2	—	—

No Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were found necessary during the year as a result of notifications of tuberculosis milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is one small private slaughterhouse in the district at which 9 carcasses were inspected during the year. The bulk of the meat supply to the district is from wholesalers in the County Borough of Wigan.

The following table records the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

				Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	...	...	...	—	5	—	—	4	—
No. Inspected	...	...	...	—	5	—	—	4	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci :									
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	...	—	20%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :									
Whole carcass condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :									
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following other foods were condemned during the year:—

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46 lbs.
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Tinned Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Tinned Spaghetti and Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.

No carcase meat was condemned during the year. The small quantity of offal condemned was stained with dye and buried.

Other food condemned is collected by the Authority and buried on the refuse tip.

The following is a list of food premises within the district:—

Type of Business

General grocers and provision dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar catering establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was as follows:—

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Preserved etc., food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

12 visits were paid to the registered premises during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

It has still not been possible to inspect all the food premises in the district specifically under the Regulations, but inspections are continuing.

Some improvements at several premises have been made. Hand washing facilities have been provided on three of the vehicles from which open food is sold in the district.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS

1947—52.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

At retailers premises all ice-cream sold is pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the district in 1957.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 194 of which 149 were cases of Measles which occurred during the period from March to August.

One isolated case of Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred. The patient made a full recovery.

The death from Whooping Cough of one child under 1 year of age occurred during the year.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1957. Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided at the clinic, and during the year 95 pre-school children and 18 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria. In addition 115 children were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection.

93 of the above mentioned pre-school children and 1 school child were immunised against Whooping Cough either with Whooping Cough vaccine only or a combined (Diphtheria—Pertussis or Diphtheria—Tetanus—Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

41 pre-school children and 168 school children were immunised against Poliomyelitis.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1957.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of houses is carried out with formaldehyde, and bedding and clothing are steam disinfected by arrangement with Hindley U.D. Council.

During the year disinfection was carried out at 3 houses.

CANCER

10 deaths (5 males and 5 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS — YEARS										65 and over
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—			
Whooping Cough	36	8	10	7	10	1	—	—	—	—		
Measles (excl. Rubella)	149	9	38	57	44	1	—	—	—	—		
Acute Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Acute Pneumonia (prim. and infl'zal)	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3		
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		
Tuberculosis, Other ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—		
TOTAL	194	17	49	64	55	3	—	2	1	3		

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary servvice is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were transferred into the district.

2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1957.

The table below shows notifications by age-group for 1957.

Tuberculosis — New Cases				
Age (Years)	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
6	—	—	—	1
11	—	—	1	—
37	—	1	—	—
Totals	—	1	1	1
	1		2	

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